

House Resolution No. 279

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State businesses that admirably broaden and deepen the economic foundations of local communities and neighborhoods; and

Whereas, Empire District Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri, is an investor-owned regulated utility that provides electricity, natural gas, and water to approximately 215,000 customers in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; and

Whereas, Empire District Electric Company recently enhanced its already impressive record of achievement when it was selected to receive a Golden Apple Award from the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas, Empire District Electric Company is being recognized by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce in light of its restoration efforts during the devastating ice storms of January 2007 when more than 208 transmission structures, 305 distribution transformers, and 1,168 distribution poles needed to be replaced or repaired; and

Whereas, approximately fifty-two percent of Empire District Electric Company's electric customers were without service due to storm damage, and in order to restore power to customers as quickly as possible, the company brought in an additional 1,500 contractors to add to the normal complement of 300 line workers and 100 service personnel; and

Whereas, Empire District Electric Company is led by President and Chief Executive Officer William L. Gipson, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer-Electric Bradley P. Beecher, Vice President-Energy Supply Harold R. Colgin, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer-Gas Ronald F. Gatz, Vice President-Finance and Chief Financial Officer Gregory A. Knapp, Vice President-Commercial Operations Michael E. Palmer, and Vice President-Regulatory and General Services Kelly S. Walters and a Board of Directors consisting of Kenneth R. Allen, William L. Gipson, Ross C. Hartley, Bill D. Helton, D. Randy Laney, Dr. Julio S. Leon, Myron W. McKinney, B. Thomas Mueller, Mary McCleary Posner, and Allan T. Thoms:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with the Empire District Electric Company and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt congratulations upon their company receiving a Golden Apple Award from the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Empire District Electric Company of Joplin, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Don Ruzicka
District No. 132

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 279, adopted January 29, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker